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IBM CORPORATION (RHF)
C/O ROBERT H. FRANTZ
P. O. BOX 23324
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73123

EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/891,341
Filing Date: June 26, 2001
Appellant(s): ATKIN, STEVEN EDWARD

MAILED

SEP 11 2007

Technology Center 2600

Robert H. Frantz
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed May 29, 2007, appealing from the Office action
mailed October 19, 2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abir (US Patent No. 6,738,827) in view of Feinberg (US Patent No. 6,944,820).

Regarding claim 1, Abir discloses a method and system for alternate Internet resource identifiers and addresses. The system of Abir provides support for converting a unidirectional domain name to a bidirectional domain name (Figures 1-10), said method comprising the steps of establishing a plurality of labels within said domain name (col. 4, lines 22-42; col. 6, lines 14-31); performing inferencing through resolving the direction of indeterminate characters by assigning a strong direction left or right to each indeterminate character (col. 6, lines 14-65); and reordering said characters within each unidirectional domain name into a character display order using the fully resolved characters previously inferenced, thereby converting said uni-directional domain name to a bidirectional domain name in which said original order is preserved, and bidirectionality of characters within is produced (col. 6, lines 14-65). The system of Abir determines and detects the standard parts of a URL (http://www, “.com”, etc) without specifically disclosing the implementation of parsing the domain name into “labels” based on detected delimiters.

However, parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters was well known in the art of natural language and text processing. Feinberg discloses a method and system for ensuring proper rendering order of bidirectionally rendered text for locating specific text in a selection of text and ensuring that the specific text is rendered in the proper order according to the text rendering rules of the language to which that text belongs, such that text belonging to a language, such as Hebrew, requiring text to be rendered according to bi-directional text rendering rules is processed to detect characters or strings or characters that need to be ordered according to a specific configuration, such as left-to-right reading order and once such text is detected, that text is marked and rendered or displayed in the specific configuration, for example, left-to-right reading order. The system of Feinberg processes the text to detect for various delimiter or separator characters (colon, period, comma) or other characters (hyphen, dash, forward slash) so as to mark ("label") the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed (Figure 4C; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 23). Feinberg specifically teaches the system is advantageous in ensuring the proper reading order of bi-directional text (col. 2, lines 52-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Abir to implement the bi-directional text processing of Feinberg, for the purpose of ensuring that the alternate Internet and resource locators of Abir are rendered in the proper reading order for bi-directional or regular text, as suggested by Feinberg.

Regarding claim 5, Abir discloses a method and system for alternate Internet resource identifiers and addresses. The system of Abir provides support for a computer readable medium

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encoded with computer executable software for (Figures 1-10), for establishing a plurality of labels within said domain name (col. 4, lines 22-42; col. 6, lines 14-31); performing inferencing through resolving the direction of indeterminate characters by assigning a strong direction left or right to each indeterminate character (col. 6, lines 14-65); and reordering said characters within each unidirectional domain name into a character display order using the fully resolved characters previously inferenced, thereby converting said uni-directional domain name to a bidirectional domain name in which said original order is preserved, and bidirectionality of characters within is produced (col. 6, lines 14-65). The system of Abir determines and detects the standard parts of a URL (<http://www>, “.com”, etc) without specifically disclosing the implementation of parsing the domain name into “labels” based on detected delimiters.

However, parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters was well known in the art of natural language and text processing. Feinberg discloses a method and system for ensuring proper rendering order of bidirectionally rendered text for locating specific text in a selection of text and ensuring that the specific text is rendered in the proper order according to the text rendering rules of the language to which that text belongs, such that text belonging to a language, such as Hebrew, requiring text to be rendered according to bi-directional text rendering rules is processed to detect characters or strings or characters that need to be ordered according to a specific configuration, such as left-to-right reading order and once such text is detected, that text is marked and rendered or displayed in the specific configuration, for example, left-to-right reading order. The system of Feinberg processes the text to detect for various delimiter or separator characters (colon, period, comma) or other characters (hyphen, dash, forward slash) so as to mark (“label”) the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be

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corrected or processed (Figure 4C; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 23). Feinberg specifically teaches the system is advantageous in ensuring the proper reading order of bi-directional text (col. 2, lines 52-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Abir to implement the bi-directional text processing of Feinberg, for the purpose of ensuring that the alternate Internet and resource locators of Abir are rendered in the proper reading order for bi-directional or regular text, as suggested by Feinberg.

Regarding claim 9, Abir discloses a method and system for alternate Internet resource identifiers and addresses. The system of Abir teaches a system for establishing a plurality of labels within said domain name (col. 4, lines 22-42; col. 6, lines 14-31); performing inferencing through resolving the direction of indeterminate characters by assigning a strong direction left or right to each indeterminate character (col. 6, lines 14-65); and reordering said characters within each unidirectional domain name into a character display order using the fully resolved characters previously inferenced, thereby converting said uni-directional domain name to a bidirectional domain name in which said original order is preserved, and bidirectionality of characters within is produced (col. 6, lines 14-65). The system of Abir determines and detects the standard parts of a URL (<http://www>, “.com”, etc) without specifically disclosing the implementation of parsing the domain name into “labels” based on detected delimiters.

However, parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters was well known in the art of natural language and text processing. Feinberg discloses a method and system for ensuring proper rendering order of bidirectionally rendered text for locating specific text in a selection of text and ensuring that the specific text is rendered in the proper order according to

the text rendering rules of the language to which that text belongs, such that text belonging to a language, such as Hebrew, requiring text to be rendered according to bi-directional text rendering rules is processed to detect characters or strings or characters that need to be ordered according to a specific configuration, such as left-to-right reading order and once such text is detected, that text is marked and rendered or displayed in the specific configuration, for example, left-to-right reading order. The system of Feinberg processes the text to detect for various delimiter or separator characters (colon, period, comma) or other characters (hyphen, dash, forward slash) so as to mark ("label") the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed (Figure 4C; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 23). Feinberg specifically teaches the system is advantageous in ensuring the proper reading order of bi-directional text (col. 2, lines 52-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Abir to implement the bi-directional text processing of Feinberg, for the purpose of ensuring that the alternate Internet and resource locators of Abir are rendered in the proper reading order for bi-directional or regular text, as suggested by Feinberg.

Regarding claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12; the combination of Abir and Feinberg provides support for assigning a right-to-left direction to Arabic and Hebrew letters (see Abir at Figures 1-5; col. 4, line 23 to col. 6, line 65 and/or Feinberg at col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 48); assigning a left-to-right direction to full stop characters and other alphabetic characters (see Abir at Figures 1-5; col. 4, line 23 to col. 6, line 65 and/or Feinberg at col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 23); resolving directions of digits (see Abir at col. 9, lines 54-62 and/or Feinberg at col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 48).

Regarding claims 13-15, the combination of Abir and Feinberg disclose the pre-determined full stop punctuation mark used as a delimiter between said labels comprises a Latin period punctuation mark (see Abir at col. 4, lines 22-42; col. 6, lines 14-31 and/or Feinberg at col. 9, lines 54-62).

(10) Response to Argument

Applicant's arguments filed May 29, 2007, in the Appeal Brief have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues claims 1, 5, and 9 recite the functions of which a URL or web address is broken into "labels" by parsing it at points where "full stop" characters appear, and argues the Examiner addresses these claim elements, steps and limitations by interpreting Abir's disclosure as anticipating the claimed step, element or limitation under 35 U.S.C § 102(e). As indicated in the final rejection and the rejection above, the claim limitations, elements and steps were rejected under a combination of the teachings of Abir and Feinberg.

Applicant argues that the various passages of Abir that were cited by the Examiner in the rejection do not discuss using the period or dot character as a delimiter. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, the Examiner argues, Feinberg was cited as teaching an implementation of various characters that can be used as separators – colon, period, comma, hyphen, dash, slash- so as to mark or label the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed (col. 9, lines 54-62). Since Feinberg specifically teaches the period can be used as a separator to mark or label sections of text for processing, there is adequate support for the claim language.

Applicant argues that the various passages of Abir that were cited by the Examiner in the rejection do not discuss using the period or dot character as a delimiter or breaking the entirety of the web address into labels between full stop characters. In response, the Examiner argues, the limitation of using a period as a delimiter is specifically taught by Feinberg, as was indicated in the rejection of the claims. Additionally, as was indicated in the rejection, Abir processes the URL to separate the URL into parts but failed to specifically teach what processing was implemented so as to achieve the parts. Since parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters or separators was well known in the art of natural language and text processing, Feinberg was cited for teaching the processing of text to detect for various delimiters or separator characters (Feinberg specifically suggests various characters can be used as separators – colon, period, comma, hyphen, dash, slash) so as to mark or label the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed. Therefore, the Examiner maintains that the combination of Abir and Feinberg provide adequate support for the claim language.

Applicant argues there is no parsing of the URL by Abir. In response, the Examiner argues, the teachings of Abir were cited as teaching the processing of the URL to separate the URL into parts but failed to specifically teach what processing was implemented so as to achieve the parts. As indicated in the rejection, parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters or separators was well known in the art of natural language and text processing. In support of the well-known features of parsing text based on separators, the Examiner cited Feinberg. Referring to the rejection, Feinberg teaches processing text to detect for various delimiters or separator characters (Feinberg specifically suggests colon, period, comma, hyphen, dash, slash as

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characters to be considered as separators) so as to mark or label the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed.

Applicant argues Abir is silent as to maintaining the original order of the sub domains and domain names. In response, the Examiner argues, at col. 6, lines 3-31 Abir specifically teaches using a two-tier transformation system for subsites or parts of the URL after “.com” are successfully transformed via letter to letter and word to word translation to process the URL for achieving the alternate Internet resource identifiers and addresses. The processing and translation of subsites and the parts after the “.com” of the URL to ensure a complete and proper translation requires that the order of domains and subdomains or subsites are maintained to ensure the proper cites are accessed after transformation.

Applicant argues Abir is silent as to using the period character as a full stop character while independently reordering the characters within each portion between full stop characters. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, the Examiner argues, Feinberg specifically suggests various characters can be used as separators – colon, period, comma, hyphen, dash, slash - so as to mark or label the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed (col. 9, lines 54-62). The system of Feinberg (col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 7; Abstract) detects a first separator and then scans the text for the next separator. Once the second separator is detected, the system determines if the text within the two separators will be reordered. If the text is to be reordered, then only the text between the two separators is changed, without affecting the surrounding text. Feinberg specifically indicates that text which does not have to be corrected is not changed, which suggests that the system does not change the order of the sentences of the text (domain and

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subdomains in this instance), but merely reorders (as necessary) the text between the encountered separator or delimiter. Thus, the Examiner contends that the teachings of Feinberg would allow for the transformations to maintain the original order of the URL.

Applicant argues there is no statement why Feinberg was employed in the 103 combinations. Applicant argues and questions what, in the examiner's opinion, does Abir not teach. Applicant further argues that the examiner has not fully explained the rationale for the rejections. The Examiner cannot concur. As indicated in the Final Rejection mailed October 19, 2006 and indicated in the rejection above, the rejection clearly states that while the system of Abir determines and detects the standard parts of a URL (<http://www>, ".com", etc), Abir does not specifically disclose the implementation of parsing the domain name into "labels" based on detected delimiters. Additionally, the rejection states that parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters was well known in the art of natural language and text processing. Feinberg was cited as disclosing a method and system for ensuring proper rendering order of bidirectionally rendered text for locating specific text in a selection of text and ensuring that the specific text is rendered in the proper order according to the text rendering rules of the language to which that text belongs, such that text belonging to a language, such as Hebrew, requiring text to be rendered according to bi-directional text rendering rules is processed to detect characters or strings or characters that need to be ordered according to a specific configuration, such as left-to-right reading order and once such text is detected, that text is marked and rendered or displayed in the specific configuration, for example, left-to-right reading order. The system of Feinberg processes the text to detect for various delimiter or separator characters (colon, period, comma)

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or other characters (hyphen, dash, forward slash) so as to mark ("label") the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed (Figure 4C; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 23).

Applicant argues Feinberg is not a fully automated bi-directional text processing system. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a fully automated bi-directional text processing system) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In any case, the Examiner argues Feinberg teaches the system allows for autocorrection of ordering for text at col. 9, lines 5-17. Further, the system of Abir is also a system that provides for a fully automated bi-directional text processing system.

Applicant argues Feinberg is silent regarding applying any part or form of their invention to URL's and is silent as to an automated method or machine for properly handling bidirectional URLs. Applicant also argues Abir is silent regarding applying word-processing style natural language processing. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In this instance, the Examiner argues, the teachings of Abir were cited as teaching the processing of the URL to separate the URL into parts but failed to specifically teach what processing was implemented so as to achieve the parts. As indicated in the rejection, parsing text into sections based on detected delimiters or separators was well known in the art of natural language and text processing. In

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support of the well-known features of parsing text based on separators, the Examiner cited Feinberg. Referring to the rejection, Feinberg teaches processing text to detect for various delimiters or separator characters (Feinberg specifically suggests colon, period, comma, hyphen, dash, slash as characters to be considered as separators) so as to mark or label the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed. Therefore, the Examiner maintains that the combination of Abir and Feinberg provide adequate support for the claim language.

Applicant argues there is no motivation, suggested by either Feinberg or Abir, to combine their elements as proposed. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Feinberg processes text to detect for various delimiter or separator characters (colon, period, comma) or other characters (hyphen, dash, forward slash) so as to mark ("label") the beginning and/or end of text that needs to be corrected or processed (Figure 4C; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 23), and specifically teaches the system is advantageous in ensuring the proper reading order of bi-directional text (col. 2, lines 52-54).

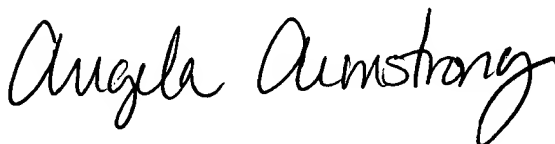
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(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

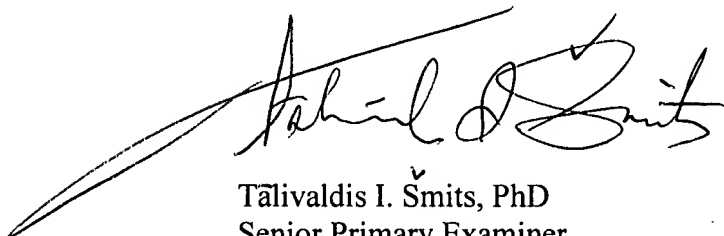
For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Division 2626

Conferees:



Tāļivaldis I. Šmits, PhD
Senior Primary Examiner
Division 2626



PATRICK N. EDOUARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Patrick N. Edouard
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Division 2626